

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FODAG

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: FAO

SUBJ: GROUP OF 77 POSITIONS AT 71ST FAO COUNCIL

1. BRITO, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP OF 77, MADE A SEVEN-PAGE STATEMENT ON THE MAIN ISSUES BEFORE THE 71ST FAO COUNCIL ON JUNE 6, 1977. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF 77 WILL MAKE SEPARATE STATEMENTS BUT THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS CAN BE SAID TO BE THE PRESENT MAJORITY VIEWS ON SOME OF THE MAJOR ISSUES.

2. POST-HARVEST LOSSES--THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FULLY SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A TRUST FUND OF DLR 20 MILLION TO FINANCE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES TO REDUCE HARVEST AND POST-HARVEST LOSSES ALONG WITH THE SUGGESTION FOR AN INPUT OF DLR 10 MILLION FROM RESOURCES ACCUMULATED IN THE SUSPENSE ACCOUNT.

3. THE GROUP OF 77 WOULD URGE THE COUNCIL TO TAKE FAVORABLE ACTION ON THE PROPOSAL THAT, IN THE LIGHT OF ITS EXPERTISE, THE CCP BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE TASK OF ENSURING THAT FOOD STANDARDS ADOPTED IN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS DO IN FACT CONTRIBUTE TO PROMOTING FAIR TRADE PRACTICES IN FOOD TRADE.

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4. THE GROUP OF 77 BELIEVES BEGIN QUOTE THAT THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAM OF FAO AS WELL AS THE POLICIES EMPHASIZING THE USE OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS REPRESENT PRACTICAL AND EFFECTIVE MEANS TO FULFILL THESE GOALS. IN ESTABLISHING TCP THE COUNCIL HAS RESPONDED TO A LONG- FELT NEED OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO BE ABLE TO FIND A QUICK AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSE FROM FAO TO THEIR

REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FEEL THAT TECHNICAL COOPERATION, AS ONE OF MANY FORMS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION MUST, AS FORESEEN IN THE CONSTITUTION OF FAO AND AS PRACTICED IN THE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, CONTINUE TO BE BASED, AT LEAST IN PART, ON ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS AND, THEREFORE, MUST CONTITUTE A SEPARATE CHAPTER OF THE BUDGET OF THE ORGANIZATION. WE REJECT THE CONCEPT OF ASSISTANCE PURELY ON THE BASIS OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS, FOR WE BELIEVE THAT ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE GREATER EQUALITY AND JUSTICE IS AN ESTABLISHED AND UNDENIABLE RIGHT.
QND QUOTE

5. THE GROUP OF 77 BELIEVES IT IS IMPERATIVE TO ENLARGE THE FAO COUNCIL AS WELL AS THE FAO PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES. THE GROUP ALSO BELIEVES RESTRICTIONS ON GOVERNMENTS' CHOICE TO RE-ELECT THE FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL SHOULD BE REMOVED. COMMENT: IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE BRITO'S STATEMENT NEITHER GIVES ANY SPECIFIC FIGURES FOR INCREASING THE COUNCIL OR THE TWO COMMITTEES NOR INDICATES THE DISTRIBUTION OF THESE INCREASES.GARDNER

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